

**TSWANA
INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL**

ENGLISH	TSWANA	TSWANA PHONETIC
I am an American and I need your help, but I do not speak your language. I'll point to the question in your language and you can point to the answer in your language.	Ke tswa* Amerika le ke kopa thuso, mme ga ke bue Setswana. Ke tla supa potso ka puo ya gago, o bo o supa karabo ka puo ya gago le wena.	Kay-tswah-a-mear-EE-kah-lay-kay-COE-paw-too-so-may-cha-kay-BOO-e-sets-WAH-nah. Kay-clah-SEW-pah-POAT-so-kah-POO-oh-yah-CHA-cho-oh-bo-oh-SEW-pah-car-AH-bo-kah-POO-oh-ya-CHA-cho-lay-WAY-nah

* "sw" is pronounced as in swift

The "g" in Tswana is sometimes pronounced with a throaty "ch" as in loch

COMMUNICATION

ENGLISH	TSWANA	TSWANA PHONETIC
Will you help me?	Nthusa?	nn-TWO-sah
Is there someone that speaks English?	O bua Sekgoa?	Oh-BOO-ah-say-CHO-ah
Are they willing to help me?	Ba tlaa nthuso?	Bah-CLAH-ah-nn-TWO-sew
Can they come here?	Ba tlang kwano?	Bah CLAH-ng-QUAH-know
I must go now, but I want to thank you for your help.	Ke nako go ya, mme ke batla go leboga le thusa a gago*.	Kay-NAH-coe-cho-yah-MAY-ke-BOT-la-cho-lay-BO-cha-lay-TWO-sah-ah-CHA-cho
My government will repay you for your kindness.	Goromente wame o tla go leboga** gore** o nthusitse.	Cho-row-MEANT-tay-WAH-may-oh-clah-cho-lay-BO-chah-CHO-ray-oh-nn-two-SEAT-tsay
I greatly appreciate your assistance.	Ke a itumeste le thusa a gago.	Kay-a-EE-two-MET-tsay-lay-TWO-sah-a-CHA-cho

BASIC NEEDS

ENGLISH	TSWANA	TSWANA PHONETIC
May I have some water?	Ke kopa metsi?	Kay-COE-pah-MET-see
May I have some food?	Ke kopa dijo?	Kay-COE-pah-dee-joe
I am injured. Is there someone that can help me?	Ke bothloko. Ke kopa thuso?	Kay-bo-CLOH-ko. Kay-COE-pa-TWO-so
Do you have any bandages?	O na le sefapo?	Oh-nah-lay-say-FAH-poe
Can you contact someone to help me?	Kopa mongwe a nthuse	COE-Pah-MOAN-chway-a-nn-TOO-say
Where is the latrine?	Thoelete o kae?	Toe-ay-LAY-tay-oh-ka-AY
I am very tired. Is there a place I can sleep?	Ke lapile thata. A go nale fa nka robalang teng?	Kay-la-PEE-lay-TAH-tah. Ah-cho-NAH-lay-fah-nn-KAH-row-BAH-leng-tang
May I have a blanket, or more clothing?	Ke kopa dikobo, kana diaparo?	Kay-COE-pah-DEE-COE-bo-CAH-nah-DEE-ah-PAR-oh

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	TSWANA	TSWANA PHONETIC
Can you show me my location on a map?	A o ka ntshupegetsa fa ke leng teng mo mmepeng?	Ah-oh-cah-nn-TSUE-pay-CHEY-tsah-fa-kay-lang-tang-moe-mm-MAY-pang
Can you send word that I am alive?	A o ka romela molaetsa wa gore ke a tshela?	Ah-oh-cah-row-MAY-la-moe-la-ATE-tsah-wah-CHO-ray-kay-a-TSAY-la
How far is it to friendly territory?	Ke bokgakala* bo kae goya ko go* seng diphatsa?	Kay-bo-cha-KAH-la-bo-KAH-ay-CHO-yah-coe-cho-sang-dee-PAH-tsay
Can you take me there?	A o ka nkisa teng?	Ah-oh-cah-nn-KEY-sah-tang
If you cannot take me, will you give me directions?	Fa o sa kgone go nkisa teng, a o ka mpontsha tsela?	Fah-oh-sah-CHO-nay-cho-nn-KEY-sah-tang-ah-oh-ka-mm-POE-tsah-TSAY-la
Is it safe to travel now?	A go siame gore nka tsamaya go ne jaana?	Ah-cho-see-A-may-CHO-ray-nah-KAH-tsah-MY-yah-cho-nay-JAH-nah
Which way do you advise me to travel?	O ka nkgakoloka gore ke tsamaye ka tsela efe?	Oh-cah-nn-CHA-coe-LOW-cah-CHO-ray-kay-tsah-MY-yay-cah-TSAY-la-EF-ah
How can I travel?	Ke tsamaya ke'ng?	Kay-tsah-MY-yah-kang
Automobile	Koloi	Coe-LOW-ee
Train	Terena	Tar-RAY-nah
Boat	Mokoro	Moe-COE-row
Cart/Wagon	Sekotshekara	Say-COE-tsah-CA-rah
Pack Animal	Tonki	TONE-key
On Foot	Ka maoto / dinao	Kah-mah-OH-toe / dee-NAH-oh

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UNFRIENDLY

ENGLISH	TSWANA	TSWANA PHONETIC
What types of troops are in the area?	Ke mofuta ofe wa masole o fa?	Kay-moe-FOO-tah-oh-FAY-wah-mah-SEW-lay-oh-fah
Are they army troops? **	A ba masole?	Ah-bah-mah-SEW-lay
Are they militia? **	A ba masole?	Ah-ba-mah-SEW-lay
Have you noticed any increase of troops or patrolling?	A o lemogile koketsego ya masole kana dipatrolle tsa bone?	Ah-oh-lay-mo-CHEE-lay-coe-kay-TSAY-cho-yah-mah-SEW-lay-CAH-nah-dee-pah-TROLL-ay-tsah-BOW-nay
When do they patrol?	Ba patrolla nako mang?	Bah-pah-TROLL-la-NAH-coe-mang
Are you aware of others like me?	A o lemogile bangwe ba ba tshwanang le nna?	Ah-oh-lay-moe-CHI-lay-BAANG-way-bah-bah-TSWA-nang-nn-NAH
Can you take me to them?	A o ka nkisa fa go bone?	Ah-oh-cah-nn-KEY-sah-cho-BOW-nay

** They do not differentiate between army troops and militia, both would be called "masole"

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	TSWANA	TSWANA PHONETIC
Hello (maam, sir)	Dumela (mma/rra)	Doo-MEL-ah (mm-mah, rr-ah)
Goodbye	Sala sentle* (when you are leaving), Tsmaya sentle* (when others are leaving)	SAH-la SEN-clay, sah-MY-ya SEN-clay
Thank you	Ke a leboga	Cay-a-lay-BO-cha
Please	Tswee-Tswee**	sway-sway
Ammunition	Marumo/Dibetsa	Mah-ROO-moe/Dee-bay-tsay
Armed Vehicle	Koloi ya dibetsa	Coe-LOW-ee-yah-dee-bay-tsay
Checkpoint	Fa go tlhatlhojwang teng	Faa-cho-CLOT-cloe-JWA-tang
Day	Letsatsi	Lay-SOT-see
Danger	Diphatsa	Dee-PAA-tsa
Desert	Sekaka	Say-KA-ka
East	Botlhaba	Bo-TAH-bah
Evening	Maitsiboa	Ma-EAT-see-BOO-a
Food	Dijo	DEE-jsho
Good	Molemo	Mo-LAY-mo
Bad	Leswe**	LAY-sway
Here	Fa, fano, gona, kwano	Fah, FAH-no, HO-na, ka-WA-no
Hour	Nako	NAH-coe
Kilometer	Sekgala	Say-CHA-la
Knife	Thipa	TEE-pah
Leader (Chief)	Moeteledi-pele (Kgosi)	Mo-AY-tay-LAY-dee-PAY-lay (CHO-see)
Medicine	Melemo	May-LAY-moe
Men	Banna	BAH-nah
Women	Basadi	Bah-SA-dee
Minute	Motsotso	Moe-TZO-tzo
Morning	Moso	MO-so
Mountain	Thaba	TAH-bah
Night	Bosigo	Bo-SEE-cho
North	Bokone	Bo-COE-nay
Pass	Feta	FAY-tah
Pistol	Tlhobolo	Toe-hoe-BO-low
Radio	Seromamowa	Say-row-MAH-moe-wah
River	Noka	KNOW-kah
Road	Pata	PA-tah

Shelter	Itshireletsa	EAT-sear-ray-LATE-sah
South	Borwa	BOAR-wah
There	Gone, koo, teng	CHO-nay, coo, tang
Valley	Mokgokologa	Moe-CHOH-coe-LOW-chah
Village	Motse	MOAT-say
Water	Metsi	MET-see
Weapon	Sebetsa	Say-BAY-tsah
West	Bophirima	Bo-peer-EE-mah
Yes	Ee	Ay
No	Nyaa	NN-yah
1	Nngwe	NN-chway
2	Pedi	PAY-dee
3	Tharo	Tah-RO
4	Nne	nn-NAY
5	Tlhano	TAH-no
6	Thataro	Tah-TA-row
7	Supa	SUE-pa
8	Robedi	Ro-BAY-dee
9	Robongwe	Row-BO-nn-chway
10	Lesome	Lay-SO-may
20	Masomepedi	Mah-SO-may-PAY-dee
30	Somamararo	So-MAH-ma-RAH-row
40	Somamanne	So-mah-MA-nay
50	Masomethano	Mah-so-may-TAH-no
60	Somamarataro	So-mah-mah-RAH-tah-row
70	Somasupa	So-mah-SUE-pa
80	Somarobedi	So-mah-row-BAY-dee
90	Somarobonngwe	So-mah-row-BO-nn-chway
100	Lekgolo le le lengwe	Lay-CHO-lay-lay-LAY-chway
500	Makgolo a matlhano	Ma-CHO-low-a-ma-CLAH-no
1000	Sekete se le sengwe	Say-KAY-tay-say-lay-SAY-nchway

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*depending on the region, 'tle' is pronounced "clay" or "tay."

** "sw" is pronounced as in swift